



Week 3 Assignment

Overview

An online learning community is dependent on e-communication. Emails, e-presentations, e-newsletters, e-meetings, and e-publishing are all part of online learning.

In this week's assignment, you will create a wiki, and use your wikispace to invite colleagues, preferably at your school and grade level, to join you in establishing an online learning community.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 3 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished 10 The evidence suggests that this work is a "Habit of Mind." The educator is ready to mentor others in this area.	Proficient 8 The evidence suggests that performance on this work matches that of a strong educator.	Needs Improvement 6 The evidence does not yet make the case for the educator being proficient at this task.
Creating a Wiki	Student successfully creates a wiki and provides required information.	Student successfully creates a wiki and provides required information.	Student does not create a wiki or provide wiki information.
Inviting Wiki Members	Student identifies four or more colleagues who have accepted invitations to join the wiki.	Student identifies 2-3 colleagues who have accepted invitations to join the wiki.	Student does not identify colleagues who have joined the wiki.
Creating a Wiki Home Page	Student successfully creates a wiki home page, and provides thoughtful analysis of the benefits and challenges of using a wiki to communicate and collaborate with colleagues.	Student successfully creates a wiki home page, and provides brief analysis of the benefits and challenges of using a wiki.	Wiki home page is not created, and/or student does not provide analysis on the benefits and challenges of using wiki.
Assignment Mechanics	Responses are relevant to course content; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.	Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.

Week 3 Assignment, Part 1: Creating a Wiki

A wiki is an excellent tool for establishing and facilitating an online learning community. Through the wiki, community members can collaboratively plan, share information, reflect on the information, and communicate with each other.

For Part 1 of your Week 3 Assignment, you will set up a wiki account. You will then invite colleagues, preferably at your campus and grade level, to join you in using the wiki to establish an online learning community.

To complete this assignment:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the right side of the screen under “Get Started,” fill out the first three boxes with a username, password, and your email address.
- Record your information in the space below.

Website Name and Address	Website's Purpose	My Username	My Password	My URL
Listen to the Natives Hosted on: http://www.wikispaces.com URL: http://listentothentatives.wikispaces.com/	This wiki investigates ways we as digital immigrants can improve Teaching & Learning by using digital native tools, and embraces the idea that we must learn from our students in order to teach them.	edtechman	pizzapie	http://listentothentatives.wikispaces.com/

Week 3 Assignment, Part 2: Inviting Wiki Members

To complete this assignment:

- Enter the following address into your web address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- On the left side of the screen under the word “Actions,” click on “Make a New Space.” This will take you to “Make a New Space Now.”
- In the box next to “Space Name,” give your space a name, which will be the URL to your newly created site.
- On the next page, be sure that “Protected” is selected at “Space Visibility.” All spaces must have permissions set to “Protected” to ensure integrity of your work. This will keep the public from modifying anything on your page. Only members of your wikispace will be able to edit content. Click “Join.”
- Close the “Getting Started with Your Wikispace” popup box.
- Click on the “Manage Space” link on the upper left-hand side of the page.
- Under “Space Settings,” click “Members and Permissions” link.
- Under “Invite a New Member,” key in one email address of a colleague who wants to join your wiki. Click “Invite.”
- When the invitation appears, you can add the other email addresses in the “To” bar. Insert commas between each email address. Edit the message to include your invitation to join the online learning community. *Did you invite me to join your wiki?* Click “Send.”

In the space below, list the people who have accepted invitations to join your wiki. You don’t have to provide their names, simply list them as “third-grade teacher,” “science department chair,” etc.

Members who have posted to or edited wiki (as-of 3:00pm 06/22/09):

HS Communications/Debate teacher

Technology Director (BDD)

6th grade inclusion teacher

District Instructional Technology Specialist

HS Speech Communication/Debate teacher

All Members by Pseudonym (as-of 3:00pm 06/22/09):

GovernorRoberson, ms_gwenivere, rjhwest, dpdooose, edld5306, mi_leija, pageb_1972, asproles, genemtz, hdhollis1, krisburk, bilingualtx, melzar08, Wscott00, coachdean1913, DenaWilliams, cylib

Week 3 Assignment, Part 3: Creating a Wiki Home Page

After the colleagues at your school respond to the invitation to join the wiki, you will now create a wiki home page for the online learning community.

Before setting up your home page:

- Access the “Wikis in Plain English” video by entering the following address in your web address bar:
http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wikis+in+plain+English&search_type=
- This video will provide you with additional information about using wiki as a tool for collaboration.

To set up your home page:

- Enter the following address into your address bar: <http://www.wikispaces.com>
- Under “Navigation” on the top left of the screen, click “Home.” You will edit this page to create a Home page for your online learning community.
- Click “Edit This Page” at the top of the screen, and create your home page in the space.

As you create the home page, keep in mind that the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus.

- On the home page, include the following:
 - The name of your online learning community and campus location.
 - The names of the members and their positions (grade level/content area).
 - The purpose of the online learning community. (Remember, the goal of the online learning community is to improve technology use and integration at your campus. Support your purpose statement with data that you collected in the Project 1 Analysis and Project 2 Application.)
 - One question to get the members' ideas flowing. (Relate the question you pose to the data you collected from the Texas Star Chart.)
 - Other members may add to the list of questions, or click Discussion and enter their comments. The wikispace <http://coeprofessionaldevelopment.wikispaces.com/> also contains an example discussion page.
- Click "Save," and answer the questions provided below.

How do you envision using the wiki to facilitate an online learning community? What are the benefits of using this tool? What are the challenges?

Wikis are a great way to handle group discussion and interactions, including brainstorming, without dragging everyone together for a face-to-face. An ongoing discussion can be held as members post questions, post answers, change and add to the questions, and link to outside resources. Groups such as site-based committees and bond committees can use wikis for much of the discussion and hashing-out of ideas, and the wiki can be used as a tool for consensus building. Classes can use wikis to create knowledgebases, and multiple classes can create an online, interactive learning community across campus and district boundaries.

The benefits of this tool include minimizing email flurry during planning sessions, minimizing face-to-face meeting time, and allowing members to communicate despite differing schedules and vast distances. Wikis provide collaboration and interaction in an online environment where each of us gets a turn at the "whiteboard", so they are a great equalizer, and can minimize cultural and socioeconomic differences. Wikis can also save money and resources as collaboration occurs in cyberspace without the need for transportation, facilities, materials, etc.

The biggest challenge I see to wikis include unfounded fears of "letting the genie out of the bottle" when we empower stakeholders, and concerns over flaming, trolls and cyberbullying. Having a good moderator for a wiki should eliminate most of the concerns over flaming, cyberbullying and other forms of abuse. Lack of access to the Internet may pose a challenge in some communities, and translation software may be needed if all members do not share a common language.